



Wednesday Prayer

1st Sunday of Advent – “He shall execute justice and righteousness”

**The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
Jeremiah 33:14-15**

A new liturgical year begins again with Advent, a time of waiting and preparing. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that “In those days and at that time” justice and righteousness will come. There’s nothing really specific there for people in the modern era with cell phones and smart watches to remind of the exact time, or an alarm that reminds us a day before, an hour before or 15 minutes before an event will happen. Waiting with uncertainty is not something that we’re used to doing or that we enjoy doing.

The liturgical season of Advent is much more than four Sundays of lighting candles, or of practicing the lines of the Christmas program and the choir anthems. It’s a season to lift up the spiritual practice of making room in our lives and in our hearts for the universal, cosmic Jesus who will “execute justice and righteousness in the land”. Our waiting is done in eager anticipation in the darkest time of the year for the light that brings hope, joy and peace.

Living with faith is all about learning the Advent discipline of living in the waiting time, in the uncertainty, and trusting God to fulfill the promise of justice and righteousness that is to come. As we wait, we must continue to be God’s hands, feet and voice in the work towards justice, even though we may not see the immediate results we so often want. We pray for all who are suffering and tell others the gospel message. We work for justice in our own communities, working together towards God’s promises. We point to the coming of Christ, so that others living in fear, in unjust circumstances, can live into the fullness of Christ’s love.

Stir up your power and Come, Oh Lord. Use our voices, Lord, to shout for justice. Use our hands to reach out in compassion for those who live with fear, subjected to exploitation and other forms of abuse. Open our eyes to be alert to dangers that threaten ourselves and others. Live and burn in our hearts so that in our waiting, we alert others to the redeeming word of your coming in the Christ child. Amen.

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